

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Essential for Court Interpretation

The following knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) essential for court interpretation are identified in:

Study of California's Court Interpreter Certification and Registration Testing (2007) by ALTA Language Services, Inc.

Linguistic skills:

- 1A** Native-like proficiency in all working languages;
- 1B** Ability to think and react communicatively in all working languages;
- 1C** Knowledge and use of a broad range of vocabulary, including legal terminology, subject-specific terminology, and slang; and
- 1D** Knowledge and use of cultural nuances, regional variations, idiomatic expressions, and colloquialisms in all working languages.

Speaking skills:

- 2A** Ability to speak with proper pronunciation, diction, and intonation in all working languages;
- 2B** Ability to speak with a neutralized accent in all working languages; and
- 2C** Ability to project and/or speak softly.

Listening comprehension skills:

- 3A** Ability to listen to and comprehend different rates of speech in all working languages;
- 3B** Ability to listen to and comprehend various regional accents and/or dialectical differences in all working languages; and
- 3C** Ability to ignore auditory distractions and focus on source speaker.

Reading comprehension skills:

- 4A** Ability to read and comprehend overall meaning and specific details of written text in all working languages;
- 4B** Ability to read and recognize various written contexts, including formal and informal text, subject-specific vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and colloquialisms; and
- 4C** Ability to read quickly and with little preparation.

Interpreting skills:

- 5A** Ability to concentrate and focus;
- 5B** Ability to process linguistic information quickly;
- 5C** Ability to make quick linguistic decisions regarding word choice or terminology selection;
- 5D** Ability to apply short-term memory skills in retaining small units of information;
- 5E** Ability to think analytically;
- 5F** Ability to utilize predictive thinking skills to anticipate incoming messages;
- 5G** Ability to convey meaning;

- 5H** Ability to provide transference from one language to another;
- 5I** Ability to preserve accuracy;
- 5J** Ability to select appropriate equivalent for vocabulary or phrases;
- 5K** Ability to conserve intent, tone, style, and utterances of all messages;
- 5L** Ability to reflect register; and
- 5M** Ability to self-monitor and self-correct.

Behavioral skills:

- 6A** Ability to practice and follow ethical standards;
- 6B** Ability to conduct business in a professional manner;
- 6C** Knowledge and awareness of cultural aspects that affect language;
- 6D** Ability to work in various settings, situations, or conditions;
- 6E** Ability to project self-confidence and self-awareness when interpreting; and
- 6F** Knowledge, and continued learning of social, technological, and legal changes that affect language.